

## LEITRIM - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Aghagrania stream section</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH8 Lower Carboniferous</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Aghagrania, Drumcronan, Dorrusawillin, Corloughlin, Largan, Sheskinacurry</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Drumshanbo</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>599749E 812213N (at Aghagrania Bridge)</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 26</b>	<b>GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 7</b>
<b>GIS CODE LM001</b>	

### **Outline Site Description**

The site comprises the bed and banks of a stretch of the Aghagrania River, south of Slieve Anierin.

### **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

The site is the type section for the Meenymore Formation and includes stream sections through the Bellavalley Shale Formation overlying it. Both formations are of Mississippian (Dinantian, Lower Carboniferous) age and are part of the Leitrim Group.

### **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The site is geologically important as the type, or representative, section exemplifying the Meenymore Formation. The rocks succeed the Bricklieve Limestone Formation, and represent a change in the broad environment at the time, related to a period of uplift. The rock types in the Meenymore Formation include laminated dolomites, shales and some evaporite layers, as well as other lithologies. In the formation as a whole, there are indications of shallow water deposition such as desiccation cracks, algal laminites and other features. The inferred setting is that of a sabkha-type environment – a coastal mudflat or saltflat in an arid climate.

The succeeding shale formations are more normal marine sediments. The Bellavalley Formation is 33 m thick and the Aghagrania site is the most complete in the district. However, exposure of the shale rock is poor in the stream section, as it is not a robust material.

### **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

The site merits recognition as a County Geological Site, as the type section for the Meenymore Formation.

### **Management/promotion issues**

The stream section is highly difficult to access and is unsuitable for promotion to a wider audience. It is important for geological science and mainly of interest to geologists. The stream runs through farmland and is heavily wooded and overgrown.



The view downstream from Aghagrania Bridge showing the stream section of the Meenymore Formation.



View upstream from Aghagrania Bridge.



One of the 'best' Bellavalley Shale Formation exposures.

